

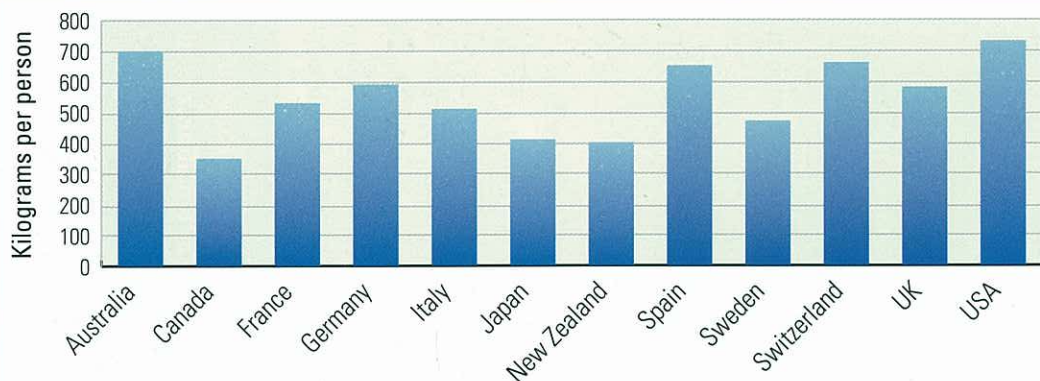
# Ten Years of Recycling

## *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*

*Ten Years of Recycling – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* is a report released by Australian environment group Planet Ark in 2005. It has revealed that although most Australians support recycling, Australia is still one of the most wasteful countries in the world. The reason for this is a combination of laziness and confusion about what can be thrown into bins.

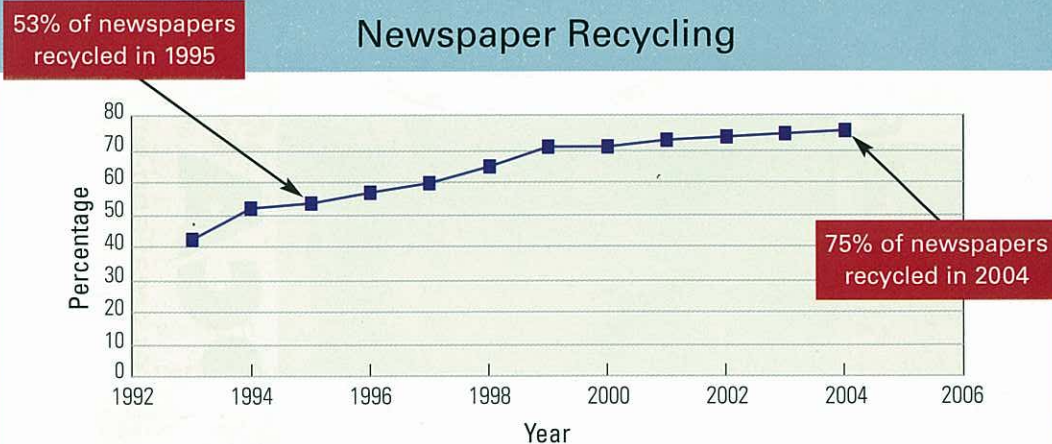
In 2004, Australia produced 690 kilograms of municipal waste per person. This was more than in any other country in this study, except the USA.

Municipal Waste in 2004



On the positive side, 42% of Australians compost or use worm farms to recycle vegetable scraps, and newspaper and aluminium can recycling rates have risen dramatically since 1993. Australians recycle almost 2 billion newspapers and 2.3 billion aluminium cans every year. Every can that is recycled saves enough energy to power a TV set for 3 hours.

Newspaper Recycling



On the negative side, Australians still throw out material that could be easily recycled. Only 11% of Australia's office paper is recycled. On average, Australians replace their mobile phones (usually in good working order) every 18 to 24 months.